

FIRST STRIKE

AUGUST 25TH 2006

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NEXT MONTH'S CLASSES:

- Intro to Fire Support Assets
- Call For and Adjust Indirect Fire
- Recommend Admin and Personnel Actions
- Implement Preventive Medicine Measures
- Report Casualties
- Supervise Supply Activities
- Write in the Army Style

HANOI HILTON

In August OCS Class 47 watched the film "Hanoi Hilton".

The Hanoi Hilton (Vietnamese: *Hỏa Lò*, meaning "fiery furnace") was a prison used by the North Vietnamese for prisoners of war during the Vietnam War. The official name of the prison was "the Hoa Lo Prison", and was built by the French in 1904, when Vietnam was still part of French Indochina to hold Vietnamese prisoners, particularly political prisoners agitating for independence who were often subject to torture and execution. The French called the prison *Maison Centrale* - a usual term to denote prisons in France.

Captured U.S. POWs reported that the conditions there were miserable, and the food so bad, that the prison was sarcastically nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton" by the inmates, in reference to the well-known and upscale Hilton Hotel chain.

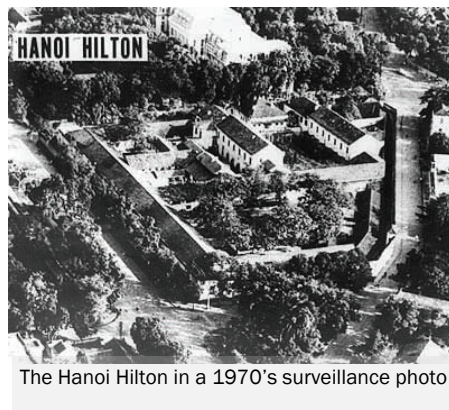
American authorities stated that the Hanoi Hilton was used as a place for the North Vietnamese Army to torture and interrogate captured soldiers, mostly Americans, mainly pilots shot down during bombing raids. Others countered by stating that prisoners were treated with decency and that the prison was no worse than prisons for POWs and political prisoners in South Vietnam such as the one on Con Son Island.

When prisoners of war began to be released from this and other North Vietnamese prisons in the late 1960s and early 1970s, their testimonies revealed widespread and systematic abuse of prisoners of war. Initially this information was suppressed by American authori-

ties for fear that conditions might worsen for the prisoners remaining in North Vietnamese custody.

Neither the United States nor its allies ever formally charged North Vietnam with the war crimes revealed to have been committed there, nor demanded extradition of Vietnamese officials who had violated the Geneva Convention at the Hanoi Hilton. The present government of Vietnam firmly holds to the view that the Hanoi Hilton was a prison for criminals, not POWs, and that those held in the Hanoi Hilton were "pirates" and "bandits" who had attacked Vietnam without authority.

Vice Presidential candidate James Stockdale was held as a prisoner at the Hanoi Hilton, as well as Senator John McCain, who spent five and a half years there. Actress Jane Fonda reportedly visited the Hanoi Hilton as part of an anti-war demonstration. According to Barbara Mikkelsen of the Urban Legends Reference Pages, she was not allowed to enter the prison itself and she only spoke to eight POWs who had been given clean clothes for the occasion. The prisoners were ordered to tell her that they were being treated well. This sparked later stories whose authenticity continues to be debated — that she may have reported the POWs' attempts to pass her written messages and these actions caused several of them to be further abused. These accounts have been labelled as persistent myth



The Hanoi Hilton in a 1970's surveillance photo

by many sources, including former prisoners who claimed to have personal knowledge of these events.

Only part of the prison exists today as a museum. Most of it was demolished during the construction of a high rise that now occupies most of the site. Ironically, the interrogation room where many newly captured Americans were interrogated and tortured, notorious among former prisoners as the "blue room", is now made up to look like a very comfortable, if spartan, barracks style room. Displays in the room claim that Americans were treated well and not tortured, in stark contradiction to the many claims of former prisoners that the room was the site of numerous acts of torture.

For further reading on the Hanoi Hilton please reference the source for this article at Wikipedia.org.

-OC Kubasiak

HISTORY CORNER—JAN ZIZKA

Jan Zizka was a Hussite general from Bohemia who lived during the beginning of the 15th century. Zizka led the Hussite armies in Bohemia during the civil wars that plagued the reign of Wenceslaus IV. He lost an eye during the Battle of Grunwald in 1410, which earned him the nickname "John the One-Eyed".

Zizka was known for converting farming equipment into weapons. He drew his forces from the local peasant population and tools, such as an agricultural flail, were easily converted into weapons. He also converted farm wagons into mobile armored artillery mounts known as "war-wagons". He was one of the first commanders to effectively use combined arms tactics. He would complement his infantry forces with the use of cavalry and wagon-mounted cannons. He also used the armored war-wagons to create defensive positions.

Zizka and his Hussite followers battled with the Romanists who fought on behalf of the Holy Roman Empire. Zizka's victories allowed his forces to occupy a large portion of Bohemia. During his campaigns against the Romanists Zizka captured a small castle near Litomerice which he took personal possession of, the one reward he desired for his ser-

vices. He named the castle "Chalice", a biblical reference.

In 1421, Zizka lost his other eye while attacking the castle of Rabi. He continued to command his armies despite being blind. His aides would describe terrain features, distances, directions, and intelligence gathered about the opposing force. He would use this information to create a mental image of the battlefield and then place his men and equipment. Zizka fought three more years in the civil war between rival Hussite parties and fended off the invading nobles backed by the Romanists.

At the end of 1423 Zizka attempted to invade Hungary, under the rule of King Sigismund. Though this Hungarian campaign was unsuccessful it ranks among the greatest military exploits of Zizka, on account of the skill he displayed in retreat. He was able to keep effective command and deal out heavy damage to the Hungarians as he pulled his elements back one by one. In 1424, civil war having again broken out in Bohemia, Zizka defeated the armies of Prague at Skalice on January 6th and at Malesov on June 7th. In September he marched on city of Prague, but on the 14th of that month peace was concluded between the Hussite parties. It

was agreed the now reunited Hussites should attack Moravia, part of which was still held by followers of King Sigismund, and that Zizka should lead the campaign. Zizka would never have the chance to lead that army into battle. He died of the bubonic plague on October 11th, 1424 on the Moravian frontier. His dying wish was to have his skin used to make war drums to be beaten when his army went into battle. It was his hope that with the sound of the drums he might continue to lead his troops even after death. Zizka was such a well-respected general that when he died, his soldiers called themselves the Orphans as if they had lost their father.

The legacy of Zizka was his forward thinking tactics and modern approach to the battlefield. He used armored wagons with small cannons and muskets five hundred years before the advent of the tank. These wagons were often seen in performing complex maneuvers at full speed with interacted coordination between elements. Some of Zizka's enemies feared him so much that they referred to him as the anti-christ. Jan Zizka use of terrain and ability to use his resources effectively made him a focus of study for many great military leaders. -OC Van Ginkel



A painting by Mikoláš Aleš showing Jan Žižka as a Hussite general

"The fighting persisted until the last minutes before the cease-fire took effect."

WAR IN LEBANON

Lebanese civilians fled back to war-torn areas Monday, August 14, 2006 after a U.N. cease-fire halted a month of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah that claimed more than 900 lives. Lebanese, Israeli and U.N. officers met on the border to discuss the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and the deployment of the Lebanese army in the region.

The fighting persisted until the last minutes before the cease-fire took effect. Israeli planes blasted Beirut and ground troops battled Hezbollah in south Lebanon. Hezbollah returned with its most brutal rocket attack of the war on northern Israel.

After the cease fire took effect, humanitarian groups sent convoys of food, water and medical supplies to the destroyed ar-

reas. The next step is a peace keeping mission. The U.N. plan calls for a joint Lebanese-international force to move south of the Litani River and stand as a buffer between Israel and Hezbollah militiamen. An international conference to discuss the violence in the middle east and the reconstruction of Lebanon is planned for late August in Sweden.

-OC Bittner



Displaced Lebanese attempt to return to Southern Lebanon

CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT — OC SORN

What is your civilian job?

I work as a quality assurance chemist for Honeywell Electronic Materials in Chandler. My job consists mostly of just testing products in order to assure that they comply with each customer's specifications, but I also work on developing methods for testing products that are produced in our Research and Development department. My boss recently took an extended leave of absence to try out a career in teaching, so in addition to my regular duties, I am also doing her job. I don't really know what that all entails, but I am in the process of figuring it out.

What is your educational background?

I graduated from Illinois State University in Normal, IL in 2002 with a degree in Environmental Health. I am currently working on my graduate degree in International Environmental Technology Management at Arizona State University East.

What do you enjoy doing during your free time?

I don't really have free time, any time off of work I usually spend doing homework. When I can get away from that for a minute I like to spend time with my friends and take little road trips.

What is your military background?

I joined the national guard in Illinois when I was 17. I went to basic training and AIT in Ft. McClellan, AL for NBC. I was in a smoke platoon in the 135th Chemical Co. in the ILARNG until I moved to Arizona in July 2002. After moving, I became the NBC NCO for Co. G 285 AVN, and deployed with them to Kuwait in 2003. I remained in that unit until I began OCS.

What are you hoping to branch when you are commissioned?

I would like to branch Ordnance. Ever since I heard about this branch I have not wanted to do anything else, so I really hope it works out for me.

-OC Smittle



OC Marissa Sorn on deployment in Kuwait 2003.

THE AK-47

The AK-47 is a gas-operated assault rifle designed by Mikhail Kalashnikov, produced by Russian manufacturer Izhevsk Mechanical Works and used in many Eastern bloc nations during the Cold War. It was adopted and standardized in 1947. Compared with the auto-loading rifles used in World War II, the AK-47 was generally more compact, with a shorter range, a smaller 7.62 × 39 mm cartridge, and was capable of selective fire. It was one of the first true assault rifles and remains the most widely used. The AK-47 and its numerous variants and descendants have been produced in greater numbers than any other assault rifle and are in production to this day.

The AK-47 is simple, inexpensive to manufacture and easy to clean and maintain. Its ruggedness and reliability are legendary. The large gas piston, generous clearances between moving parts, and tapered cartridge case design allow the

weapon to endure large amounts of foreign matter and fouling without failing to cycle. This reliability comes at the cost of accuracy, as the looser tolerances do not allow the precision and consistency that are required of more accurate firearms. Although accuracy was not the feature most desired of this design, it is still present. Reflecting Soviet infantry doctrine of its time, the rifle is meant to be part of massed infantry fire, not long range engagements.

The notched rear tangent iron sight is adjustable, each setting denoting hundreds of meters. The front sight is a post adjustable for elevation in the field. Windage adjustment is done by the armory prior to issue. The battle setting places the round within a few centimeters above or below the point of aim out to approximately 250 meters. This "point-blank range" setting allows the shooter to fire the weapon at any close target without adjusting the sights.

Longer settings are intended for area suppression. These settings mirror the Mosin-Nagant and SKS rifles which the AK-47 replaced. This eased transition and simplified training.

Features by the numbers:

The standard AK-47 or AKM fires a 7.62 × 39 mm round with a muzzle velocity of 710 m/s (2,329 ft/s). Cartridge case length is 38.6 mm, weight is 18.21 g. Projectile weight is normally 8 g (123 gr). The AK-47 and AKM, with the 7.62 × 39 mm cartridge, have a maximum effective range of around 300 meters. For comparison, the 7.62 × 54 mm R cartridge has a projectile of 9.6-12 g (148-185 gr [depending on the weapon]) at a velocity of 818 m/s (2,683 ft/s).

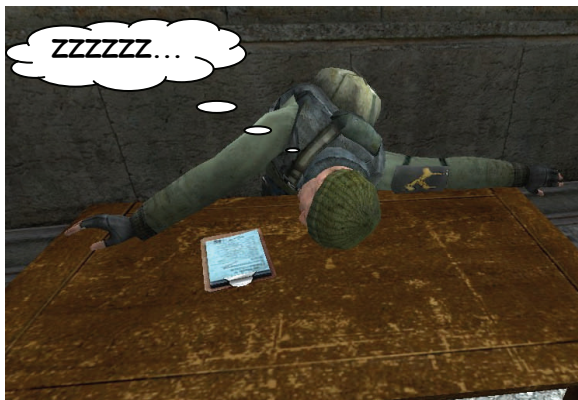
-OC Isom



A Type 2 AK-47

"The AK-47...ruggedness and reliability are legendary."

Hooah! OCS



DUTY

Fulfill your obligations.

Doing your duty means more than carrying out your assigned tasks. Duty means being able to accomplish tasks as part of a team. The work of the U.S. Army is a complex combination of missions, tasks and responsibilities—all in constant motion. Our work entails building one assignment onto another. You fulfill your obligations as a part of your unit every time you resist the temptation to take “shortcuts” that might undermine the integrity of the final product.

Taken from GoArmy.com

We often talk about the elements of Duty during our time in OCS. The mission is a combination of tasks at hand, implied tasks, and ongoing actions that require an officer's full attention and constant supervision.

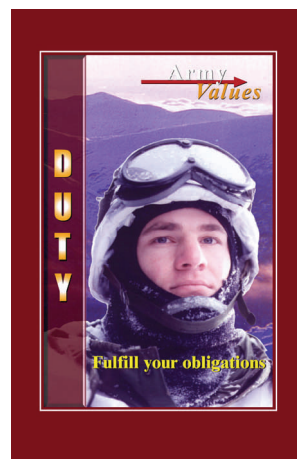
In order to execute our duties as soldiers in the most efficient and thorough way possible we use the Troop Leading Procedures. To properly address the complexity of a mission the Troop Leading Procedures allow us to break down every task and address the mission in a way that ensures mission

completion and subordinate comprehension.

Furthermore, Duty is more than just completing the mission. Duty is the daily actions of a leader in line with the core Army Values and the greater objectives of moral and ethical service. We are loyal to the Army and its values when we do our Duty.

Whether in the OCS environment or with an Army unit a sense of duty will go a long way to making you a successful Army soldier.

-OC Francia



Army Duty

THE MONTH AHEAD-SEPTEMBER

Prior to the September drill Officer Candidates will have read and written a report in memo format on the reading assignment Duffer's Drift. In addition, those who did not pass the leadership exam or force XXI exam will have studied and prepared for their re-test.

From the experience of the previous class it is safe to say that the September drill will be a mental and physical challenge. Perhaps one of the toughest course, Call for and Adjust Indirect Fire, will

consume most of our time on September 9th. It is up to each candidate to appropriately prepared for the drill weekend especially in the area of academics. Training materials have been distributed on CD-ROM and reviewing course material prior to class is encouraged.

In addition to the mental challenges of our many classes OCS Class 47 will be conducting Combatives #3 with SSG Grant and planning their own PT for the remainder of the drill weekend. OC

Kirkpatrick has accepted the challenge of developing an active PT schedule to keep the class fit and motivated for the days ahead.

Also take the time this month to say goodbye to our fellow candidates OC McAdnews, and OC Gunter both of whom have chosen not to continue with the program. We wish them the best of luck in the future and it has been a pleasure to serve with them both.

“The work of the U.S. Army is a complex combination of missions, tasks and responsibilities—all in constant motion.”



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